Pollution check in fertilizer plants

1342. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any pollution check has been made in respect of all the fertiliser plants in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what action has been taken to check pollution in the fertilizer plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) Monitoring of pollution control norms in fertilizer factories and any action to be taken thereon is the responsibility of the State Pollution Control Boards. However, Government have been collecting data on effluent emission from major nitrogenous and phosphatic fertilizer units from time to time.

At present, 14 units, out of 37 major fertilizer units in operation, do not meet the prescribed pollution standards. Out of these 14 units, 6 units belong to Fertilizer Corporation of India and Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation which are sick companies and are not able to install the pollution control facilities due to funds constraints. These companies have been referred to the Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). Any action with regard to the revival of these companies or new investments on pollution control measures would depend on the final out come of the proceedings pending before BIFR, which is a quasi-judicial authority. Other 8 units have indicated the time frame within which they would be able to conform to the prescribed pollution control standards.

Claims of Bhopal Gas Victims

1343. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of Bhopal Gas Victims lying pending in various Courts for hearing;

(b) the number of claims disposed of so far;

(c) the amout of compensation given; and

(d) the action/measures taken by Government to dispose of the remaining claim expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to)c) As on 14.7.94, the position was as follows:—

(i) Cases pending 3,59,603

(ii) Claims disposed of 77,386

(iii) Amount given as compensation—Rs. 237.79 crores.

(d) The following Action measures were taken by the Government of India to dispose of the remaining claims expeditiously:—

(i) The Welfare Commissioner has been permitted to recruit advocates of 7 years standing who whould perform the functions of Deputy Commissioners.

(ii) A High Level Coordination Committee headed by Justice N. M. Kasliwal, a retired Judge of the Supreme Court has been set up with the objective to suggest ways and means for expeditious disposal of the cases.

(iii) Close monitoring of the disposal of cases and regular interaction with the Welfare Commissioner to remove any impediments that he may be facing in the disposal of cases.

Increase in prices of Deseforal

1344. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(b) whether it is a fact that there has recently been a sharp increase in the price of Deseferal, which is a life saving drug;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what remedial action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS and FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) (a) and (b) Desferal is an imported formulation, which is not under price control. The movement of the price of the formulation has been as follows:

Date	Price of 5 vials (Rs.)
5.7.91	410.00
1.3.92	290.00
31.12.92	370.00
28.5.93	493.00
1.3.94	528.40
22.6.94	669.88

(c) The price of this imported formulation depends on the CIF price, exchange rate variations etc. The company marketing this imported formulation has reported that the recent increases were on account of imposition of excise duty and increase in the CIF price.

Production availability of Chemical Fertilizer

1345. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of production of various chemical fertilizer during each of the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) the system adopted to ensure the availability of chemical fertilizers for the small farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Production of fertilizer nutrients (nitrogen and phosphate) during the last three years has been as follows:—

1991—92		1992—93		1993—94			
'N'	'P'	'N'	'P'	'N'	'N'	'P'	
7301.3	2562.2	7430.3	2306.2	7231.2	7231.2	1815.7	